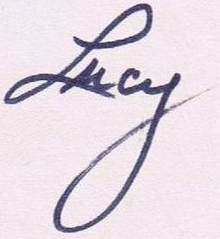
**Timeline Celebrating the Influential Life of Lucille Ball**

1915

Lucy’s father contracts typhoid fever and died, five months before her brother, Fred, was born. Lucy was then raised in Celoron, NY (just west of Jamestown) by her mother and maternal grandparents. Her mother, DeDe, gets a job in a local factory where she meets her future second husband, Edward Peterson.

1923

Lucy auditions for a part in the Shriner production at the suggestion of her step-father. This begins her desire to be in show business.

1928

Lucy returns to New York City and is employed by Hattie Carnegie as a fashion model because of her beauty.

1911

Lucille Desiree Ball was born near Jamestown, NY. Her parent were Henry Ball and Desiree Hunt.

1910 1920

1919

Lucy’s mother, DeDe, marries Edward Peterson who is not fond of small children. Lucy is left in the care of Edward Peterson’s parents when DeDe and Edward look for employment outside of Celoron, NY.

1926

Lucy travels to New York City and begins school at the John Murray Anderson School for Dramatic Arts. This was not a particularly successful adventure. Lucy was not comfortable in the big city and did not perform well. At the suggestion of the school officials, she returned to high school in Celoron, NY after only six weeks. This would not be permanent, however, and Lucy returns to New York City within a couple of years.

Lucy’s father, Henry Ball worked for the Bell Telephone Company. Because of his job, Lucy moved several times, including Montana, Michigan, and New Jersey, in the early years of her life.

1933

As a Goldwyn Girl, Lucy dyes her hair blond and moves to Hollywood to pursue an acting career. During this decade of her life, Lucy had many roles in films that were considered B level. Because of this, she acquired the nickname ‘”Queen of the B Movies”.

1930

Lucy contracts rheumatoid arthritis and is forced to return to Celoron, NY to recover for a period of over two years. During this time, she even had to learn how to walk again.

1947-1951

In 1947, Lucy enters radio. Lucy gets a lead role in the CBS radio show, *My Favorite Husband*. This would be a precursor to the *I Love Lucy* television series which would bring Lucy major stardom.

1940

Lucy meets and marries Desi Arnaz after they elope to Connecticut. She was six years older than he.

1930 1940

1932

Lucy returns to New York City where she works as a cigarette girl. For Chesterfield. During this time she tries, but does not obtain, lastly work on Broadway. She chooses the name ‘Diane Belmont’ as her stage name. She chose this name after the Belmont race track.

1950

Lucy and Desi establish Desilu Productions. The couple had to borrow five thousand dollars for the investment. **They decide to use 35mm film in order to allow the films to be viewed in the future. This was a novel approach for the television industry in the 1950s.**

1935

**Lucy signs a contract with the Max Factor Company and would go on to have the longest professional relationship with this company.**

1940s

Lucy appears in various films for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM studios) but her work does not lead to fame. In 1942, Lucy dyes her hair red at the request of MGM studios for her role in the film *DuBarry was a Lady*.

1938

A 50-year friendship began with Gale Gordon, through Lucy’s part in *The Wonder Show*. Gale Gordon would go on to star with Lucy in the hit shows: *The Lucy Show* which aired 1962 to 1968 and *Here’s Lucy* which aired 1968 to 1974.

1953

**Lucy gives birth to her second child, Desiderio Alberto Arnaz.. Lucy planned her cesarean section for the same day that her character Lucy Ricardo gave birth on the television show. This event made history.**

1961

Lucy marries Gary Morton, a comic who was thirteen years younger than she.

1957-1960

Desi and Lucy Arnaz, together with Vivian Vance and William Frawley, film a series of comedy specials entitled: *The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour*

1951

Lucy gives birth to her first child, a daughter named Lucie Desiree Arnaz. Lucy is almost 40 years old.

1953

**Lucy, and her newborn son, Desi, were the first people to appear on the cover of *TV Guide.***

1967

Lucy sold the Desilu Production Company for $17 million.

1950 1960

1951-1957

CBS adds the television show **“I love Lucy”**. In addition to Lucy and Desi Arnaz, the costars of this show were Vivian Vance and William Frawley. This television show would air for 6 years and include 179 episodes. It would bring Lucy international fame. This television show was a pioneer and would set the stage for many sitcoms to follow. This television show was responsible for several ‘firsts’. These include:

1. **It was the first time that a television show was filmed before a live audience.**
2. **It was the first time that multiple cameras (3) were used in the filming of a television show.**
3. **It was the first time that more than one television set design was used simultaneously.**
4. **It was the first time that a television show was rebroadcast through ‘reruns’.**
5. **It was the first time that ‘flat lighting’ was used to decrease shadows.**
6. **She was the first pregnant woman visualized on television.**
7. **This number one rated television show was so popular that it was viewed in 10 million homes. It was the first in history to do so.**

1960

Sadly, Lucy and Desi Arnaz divorce after 20 years of marriage. She borrows $3 million to purchase Desi’s half of the company.

**She becomes the first woman to manage a major production company.**

1962-1968

CBS runs *The Lucy Show*

1968

Lucy films the hit movie *Yours, Mine and Ours* with costar Henry Fonda.

1989

Lucy dies of a ruptured aorta at the age of 77. She is initially buried in Los Angeles. In 2002, she is buried in Lake View Cemetery, Jamestown, NY with her family.

1986

ABC airs the sitcom, Life With Lucy, but the show is dropped within a couple of months.

1968-1974

CBS runs the sitcom *Here’s Lucy*

1970 1980

1989

**The Presidential Media of Freedom award was bestowed on Lucille Ball.**

1988

Lucy suffers a mild heart attack.

1986

**For her contributions as a female comedienne, Lucy is awarded the Kennedy Center Honor.**

1971

The International Radio and Television Society’s Gold Medal was presented to Lucy. **She was the first woman to ever receive this award.**

1974

Lucy films the hit musical, *Mame*

**Summary**

**Lucille Ball was undoubtedly influential in 20th century America for several reasons. She was a pioneer in comedy and has earned many titles including: “Queen of Comedy” and “Greatest Comedienne of All Time”, “First Lady of Television”. Her type of humor and the comedy she brought to television would influence many other aspiring actors and actresses and would pave the way for many sitcom television shows to follow.**

**Second, the formation of the Desilu Production Company in 1950 became the largest television production company in the world at that time. Through Desilu, Lucy became the first woman to manage a production company. This would have significant influence on women and their place in the workforce. Also, through the filming of “I Love Lucy”, she did not try to hide the fact that she was pregnant and this was written into the script. This would also influence women in that it was the first time pregnancy was openly shown on television.**

**Third, the hit television series, “I Love Lucy” significantly changed the face of American television. This was a #1 rated television show that won a total of 200 awards, including 5 Emmy Awards. “I Love Lucy” influenced American homes since the show represented common American homes. Lucy insisted that the set designs, props, and clothes would relate to the typical American family in the 1950s. Through the development and filming of this show, many ‘firsts’ were realized. These include:**

* **It was the first time that a television show was filmed before a live audience.**
* **It was the first time that multiple cameras (3) were used in the filming of a television show.**
* **It was the first time that more than one television set design was used simultaneously.**
* **It was the first time that a television show was rebroadcast through ‘reruns’.**
* **It was the first time that ‘flat lighting’ was used to decrease shadows.**
* **She was the first pregnant woman visualized on television.**
* **This number one rated television show was so popular that it was viewed in 10 million homes. It was the first in history to do so.**

**Lucy’s creative genius had a tremendous influence on American television. It is fitting that she was the first person to be shown on the cover of *TV Guide*.**

**Fourth, Lucy was very proud of her heritage and her family. She always had a special love for Jamestown, NY and she has greatly influenced this town. A Lucy Museum has been established I her hometown for visitors to see and explore the history, accomplishments, props, and costumes of Lucille Ball. In this town , she is buried.**

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